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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants amend the Specification.

Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's indication in the Advisory Action dated March 6, 2006 that claims 1-10 and 20-23 are allowed and that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejection has been overcome.

The Examiner denied entry of the Amendment After Final Rejection filed February 16, 2006 because the features "convex" and "facing downwardly" added to claim 11 allegedly raised new issues and/or would require further consideration.

During a telephone conversation with Examiner Ngo on March 14, 2006, the Examiner agreed that claim 11 would be allowable if resubmitted without the above features. In particular, the Examiner stated that the U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejection had been overcome and Uchida et al. did not teach the feature of "the external electrodes are not disposed in the corners of the top surface of the ceramic substrate," as recited in Applicants' claim 11.

Since the Amendment After Final Rejection filed February 16, 2006 has been denied entry, and claim 11 has not been amended by this Amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is allowable.

Also, since the Amendment After Final Rejection filed February 16, 2006 was not entered, Applicants herein repeat below the arguments previously presented in the Amendment After Final Rejection filed February 16, 2006.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-19.

The Examiner alleged that the feature "the external electrodes are not disposed in the corners of the top surface of the ceramic substrate" recited in claims 1 and 11 is not discussed in the specification.

It appears that the Examiner intended to object to the specification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(d)(1) as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject

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matter since the feature of "the external electrodes are not disposed in the corners of the top surface of the ceramic substrate" is, at the least, clearly supported by the originally filed drawings, in particular, Figures 1A, 1B, and 2A. The Examiner is reminded that the Applicant may rely upon the drawings as part of the original disclosure. See MPEP § 608.04. Furthermore, the fourth full paragraph on page 5 of the originally filed specification discloses that "[t]he ceramic substrate 10 has external ground electrodes 11 on its front and back surfaces and external electrodes 12 for input/output or grounding on its side surfaces." (emphasis added). Thus, the specification and the drawings clearly provide support for the feature of "the external electrodes are not disposed in the corners of the top surface of the ceramic substrate" as recited in Applicants' claims 1 and 11. Applicants have amended the fourth full paragraph on page 5 of the specification to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(d)(1). Support for this amendment can be found in, for example, Figures 1A, 1B, and 2A, as originally filed.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claims 11, 13, 14, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Uchida et al. (U.S. 6,079,099). Claims 15, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchida et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 11 and 13-19.

Claim 11 recites:

"An integrated electronic component comprising:
a ceramic substrate including circuit elements and external electrodes disposed on side surfaces of the ceramic substrate; and
a metal case having a top segment and substrate-facing segments and being mounted on the ceramic substrate; wherein
bottom edges of the substrate-facing segments oppose a top surface of the ceramic substrate, the substrate-facing segments have notches at positions opposing corners of the top surface of the ceramic substrate, and the notches have a substantially circular arc shape; and
the external electrodes are not disposed in the corners of the top surface of the ceramic substrate." (emphasis added)

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First, the Examiner improperly ignored the feature of "the external electrodes are not disposed in the corners of the top surface of the ceramic substrate" as recited in Applicant's claims 1 and 11 in the prior art rejection. MPEP § 706.03(o) clearly provides that, as to any prior art rejection, the alleged "new matter must be considered as part of the claimed subject matter and cannot be ignored." (emphasis added). The Examiner completely failed to address the feature of "the external electrodes are not disposed in the corners of the top surface of the ceramic substrate" in the prior art rejection in the outstanding Office Action.

In the embodiment of Uchida et al. in which the notches are provided at positions opposing the corners of the substrate 20, the external/terminal electrodes 26 of Uchida et al. are disposed at all four corners of the top surface of the substrate 20. Thus, Uchida et al. fail to teach or suggest the features of "the substrate-facing segments have notches at positions opposing corners of the top surface of the ceramic substrate" and "the external electrodes are not disposed in the corners of the top surface of the ceramic substrate" as recited in Applicants' claim 11.

Although Fig. 4 of Uchida et al. shows an embodiment in which a substrate 320 includes external electrodes 326 that are not disposed in the corners of the top surface of the substrate, in this embodiment of Uchida et al., the notches are not disposed at positions opposing corners of the top surface of the ceramic substrate. In each and every embodiment disclosed in Uchida et al., the notches are disposed at the same location as the external electrodes. Uchida et al. fail to teach or suggest that the notches could or should be located at different locations from the external electrodes.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Uchida et al.

Since the Examiner improperly rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, by ignoring the originally filed drawings for support of the claimed subject matter and improperly ignored the feature "the external electrodes are not disposed in the corners of the top surface of the ceramic substrate" when rejecting claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the

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Finality of the outstanding Office Action as being premature. See MPEP §§ 706.07(d), 706.07(e).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Uchida et al. fail to teach or suggest the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in Applicants' claim 11.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is allowable. Claims 12-19 depend upon claim 11, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 11 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition the Commissioner for a One-Month Extension of Time, extending to March 16, 2006, the period for response to the Office Action dated November 16, 2005.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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